1927 - 2006

A Community Memorial Service

February 26, 2006

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Mrs. Coretta Scott King was one of our most influential leaders. She entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Mrs. King traveled throughout the world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, needs of the poor and homeless, full-employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and ecological sanity. Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then a degree in voice and violin at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music.

While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, Jr. They were married in 1953, and in September of 1954, moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where she assumed the many functions of a pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted much of her time to raising their four children: Yolanda, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice. Balancing mothering and movement work, Mrs. King conceived and performed a series of Freedom Concerts which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections. These beautiful concerts functioned as fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. After her husband's assassination, Mrs. King devoted energy and attention to developing programs and building the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream.

She dedicated herself to providing local, national and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods. Mrs. King spearheaded the massive educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In January of 1986, Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband – a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people world wide and, in some form, in over 100 countries. Coretta Scott King carried the message of nonviolence and the dream of the beloved community to almost every corner of our nation and the globe.

She led goodwill missions in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. She served as a women's Strike for Peace delegate to the seventeen nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude	Byll Irvin
Mistress of Ceremony	Joan P. Garner
Welcome/Invocation	Rev. Dr. Paula Gable
Lift Every Voice (#149)	Congregation
Inspirational Reading	Joan P. Garner
Musical Selection	Byll Irvin
Mrs. King's Life Story	Jeff Cheek (and K. Lynn Cothren)
Worlds of Healing	Rev. Dr. Kathi Martin
Official Statement to King Family	Craig Washington
Musical Selection	Janiece Thompson
Tributes	Guest Speakers
Performance	The ADODI Muse
Acknowledgements	Annie Archbold
We Would be One (#318)	Congregation
Closing Remarks	Mary Ann Adams

A life-long advocate of interracial coalitions, in 1974 Mrs. King formed a broad coalition of over 100 religious , labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity. In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience, sponsors of the 20th Anniversary March on Washington. In 1987, she helped lead a national Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Forsyth County, Georgia. Mrs. King dialogued with heads of state; put in time on picket lines with welfare rights mothers and met with great spiritual leaders including Pope John Paul, the Dalai Lama, and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

She witnessed the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman YassirArafat, and stood with Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg when he became South Africa's first democratically- elected president. A woman of wisdom, compassion and vision, Coretta Scott King tried to make ours a better world, and , in the process, made history.

This memorial is the cooperative effort of members of our communities, our allies and supporters to honor Mrs. King. We are appreciative of every person who agreed to participate or sent love and support to assure this event would take place in a manner befitting Mrs. King.

The following are the individuals we name here. There are many others whom we ask for forgiveness for not mentioning because of the limited space.

Organizers: Annie Archbold, Mary Ann Adams, Laura Bivens, Jeff Cheek, Judy Colbs, K. Lynn Cothren, Glen Paul Freedman, Joan P. Garner, Lynn Pasqualetti, Duncan E. Teague, Sharon Washington

Sponsors: Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal, The Fund for Southern Communities, Atlanta Executive Network, Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative, Atlanta Pride, Blue Mango, Charis Books and More, First Metropolitan Community Christian Church of Atlanta, HLM Accounting & Tax Inc., OutWrite Books and Coffee Shop, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, Zami (sponsor of the Audre Lorde Scholarship Program)

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